

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03719 050959Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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S E C R E T AMMAN 3719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV JO SY XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING--SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

1. KING DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WITH ME JULY 3 HIS
VIEWS ON PRESENT STATE OF SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS.

2. HE SAID JUST-COMPLETED VISIT WITH SYRIAN PRIME
MINISTER KHULAYFAWI DEALT WITH NUTS AND BOLTS
ECONOMIC ISSUES. HE DID REMARK THAT KHULAYFAWI
SEEMED GREATLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT JORDAN'S
RATHER FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM COULD DO. HE AND
OTHER SYRIAN MINISTERS COMPLAINED ABOUT THEIR
LACK OF SUCCESS WITH SOCIALIST SYSTEM AND SEEMED
INCLINED TO TRY TO INVOLVE MORE PRIVATE INTEREST

IN SYRIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

3. KING SAID HIS TALK WITH ASAD HAD GONE WELL ON
JUNE 22. HE REMARKED, IN PASSING, THAT ASAD
DISCUSSED WITH HIM FUTURE POSSIBLE CHANGE IN
SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. ASAD SAID KHULAYFAWI WAS TOUGH
AND STRONG, PERHAPS TOO TOUGH. HE ALSO HAD TROUBLE
DELEGATING AUTHORITY AND GETTING PEOPLE TO WORK

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FOR HIM. HE INSISTED ON HANDLING TOO MANY DETAILS
HIMSELF AND THINGS WERE IN A LITTLE BIT OF AN
UPROAR IN SYRIA. KING SAID ASAD TALKED IN TERMS
OF USING FORMER PRIME MINISTER AYYOUBI TO REPLACE
KHULAYFAWI. AYYOUBI WAS NOT VERY TOUGH AND
DYNAMIC, BUT HE CAME ACROSS WELL WITH PEOPLE AND
COULD DELEGATE TASKS AND GET THEM DONE. KING DID

NOT MENTION TIMING, BUT SAID HE THOUGHT CHANGE
MIGHT BE SOON.

4. IN CONVERSATION, KING MADE CLEAR THAT PROGRESS
WITH SYRIA WILL BE STEADY, BUT NOT EXCITING. HE
INDICATED ASAD DID NOT PRESS HIM AND THAT EACH
LEADER HAD SPOKEN FRANKLY ABOUT LIMITATIONS REGARDING
BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS.

5. ASAD AGAIN INDICATED HIS PLEASURE AT HIS
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BUT INDICATED ALSO
SOME REAL CONCERN ABOUT U.S. PERSEVERANCE.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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